



**Transcript for the November 11, 2013, Webchat  
U.S. Citizen Services**

Q: I would like to speak to someone about getting my passport renewed because I need to see my brother because he has terminal cancer I would like to renew my passport asap. I am not good with computers or forms and my wife just died in Aug and I get nervous easy. It would be helpful to do what is required in person if possible the way things use to be. how do I get a response?

A: You can have someone assist you in completing the forms online and then book an appointment using our online calendar. If you need to travel urgently (i.e. within 5 working days), you can contact the Embassy using our online form <http://dld.bz/pptfaq> to request an emergency appointment to apply for a limited validity passport.

Q: Hello, I'm a 2nd year PhD student in Brunel University London. Currently, I'm holding a Nigerian passport with visa duration until about mid of 2016. My question is, I have a 4 day conference to attend and make a presentation of my work in the US sometimes in March 2014. Any chance for me to apply and secure a visa for that purpose. kind regards,

A: Sorry, we can't answer visa questions in this chat.

Q: Hello, and thank you for the opportunity to ask this question. I am thinking about giving up my US citizenship, as I have never lived in the US and can't give citizenship to my children. I have started the process and wonder why I'm not allowed to bring my lawyer with me to the interview at the Embassy.

A: Due to space and security constraints, adult applicants can only be accompanied to their appointment if they require a translator or physical assistance. If applicants are in this position, they should contact the Embassy using our contact form <http://dld.bz/pptfaq> and we will advise them further.

Q: If an American has come into the UK as a visitor for the amount of 6 months change their status to student visitor? If not then is it required for them to go back to the USA or can any neighboring country be okay to visit and then return when the documents prepared for the short course (10 weeks)? Thank you

A: Unfortunately, we are unable to provide information about UK visa requirements. We suggest that you contact the UK Home Office for information about the requirements to adjust status in the UK. They can be reached via their website [www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

Q: I tried to renew my passport a while ago, but my application was rejected because my old passport was damaged. I've made an appointment with the Embassy, but I'm worried because I don't have photo ID to prove my citizenship. Is there anything I can do?

A: If your passport is held at the Embassy, you can attend with any (UK or U.S.) government issued photo ID, such as a driver's license. If you don't have a driver's license, you should bring whatever documents you have and present yourself to security at the time of your appointment. The Consular Officer will advise you further once you approach the window for your service.



Q: Will the Embassy notary services be available between Christmas and New Year's?

A: Appointments will not be available between Christmas and New Years; however, we will be opening up extra appointments in the week before Christmas to accommodate those who wish to book a notary appointment during the holiday period.

Q: What are some common reasons we would need to contact the embassy?

A: If you're a U.S. Citizen, you can contact the Embassy for assistance with deaths, birth of U.S. citizens abroad, obtaining or renewing a U.S. passport, notary appointments, arrests of U.S. citizens abroad or welfare issues

Q: Hi, my husband's visa application is under administrative review and the passport is on hold in the embassy. Certainly, nobody can guarantee when the passport can be returned. but we need the passport to fly in Dec. If by then, there is still no progress, any possibility of getting the passport back while the review continues... thanks

A: If your husband is applying for a visa, we can't assist during this webchat. He should contact our visa section for assistance.

Q: Thank you I will try and show this information about applying to my son when he comes this weekend. Would that be ok?

A: You may also wish to check out our YouTube video, which walks applicants through the online form step-by-step. Watch it here -

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DD6yMKTns94&feature=c4-overview&list=UUFxBhKIGsJ\\_Ek71dlkFMkYQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DD6yMKTns94&feature=c4-overview&list=UUFxBhKIGsJ_Ek71dlkFMkYQ)

Q: My company wants me to travel to Germany in the next 2 weeks, but the website says that it takes about 4 weeks to get passport renewals approved. Is there any way to expedite the renewal of my US passport?

A: It is not possible to expedite the issuance of a U.S. passport in the UK. Processing time is approximately 4 weeks at present. If you apply for a passport and the Consular Officer determines that there is not sufficient time to process a full validity passport, you may be eligible for an emergency, limited validity passport to accommodate your planned travel. You can then exchange this limited validity document for a full validity passport, within 12 months for no extra charge.

Q: I am trying to renew my American passport, I have a dual National in the UK. On the page "Who should we contact in an emergency?" you are asking for the state in which they live and only give a State in the US as an option, I, she reside in the UK there isn't an option to select UK, please advise

A: You should leave that entire section blank and then, when you have printed the form, complete the UK emergency contact details by hand. You may wish to check out our YouTube video, which addresses the problem you have raised -



[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DD6yMKTns94&feature=c4-overview&list=UUFXBhKIGsJ\\_Ek71dlkFMkYQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DD6yMKTns94&feature=c4-overview&list=UUFXBhKIGsJ_Ek71dlkFMkYQ)

Q: Can we telephone anymore?

A: Unfortunately, we are unable to take telephone enquiries regarding passport services.

Q: Please can you give me some advice about the expatriation process for US citizens?

A: Information about renouncing your U.S. Citizenship is available from the Embassy website - [http://london.usembassy.gov/cons\\_new/acs/passports/renunciation.html](http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/acs/passports/renunciation.html).

Q: Do I have to use DX to send in my application/my additional documents? Why?

A: For the safety and security of your documents, the Embassy requires that you use the DX courier service to submit your application. Using the DX courier allows your package to be tracked at all times during delivery and return.

Q: Should I send my passport to the Embassy or to Philadelphia? I have sent my application to the States, what should I do?

A: If you are residing in the UK, you should submit your passport renewal application to the Embassy in London. If you have already sent your documents to one of the Passport Agency offices in the United States, please contact the Embassy using our contact form - <http://dld.bz/pptfaq> and we will advise you further.

Q: Should I use a staple or a paperclip to attach my photo to my DS-82?

A: You can staple the photograph to the DS-82 form, provided that the staple does not obstruct or obscure your features. There are marks on the DS-82 form to show where the staples can go.

Q: thank you - I meant expatriation rather than renunciation. Please can you tell me what the average net income tax liability amount is currently set at? The website only shows figures from 2011

A: You should contact the IRS office at the Embassy for advice regarding income tax liability at present. Contact details are available from our website - <http://london.usembassy.gov/irs/index.html>

Q: I've been charged \$25 to download the passport renewal forms pack, is that right?

A: All Passport forms are available from the Department of State free of charge to download. If you have paid a fee, you should contact the Embassy and provide as much information as possible about the company/website you used.

Q: Can I bring my lawyer with me to the expatriation process if the lawyer is a US citizen?

A: It is the Embassy policy that adult applicants can only be accompanied if they require a translator or physical assistance from a carer.



Q: I'm afraid that's where I got the 2011 figures from - how do I get current ones?

A: We suggest that you telephone the IRS office during their telephone hours to request the latest figures.

Q: I don't have an SSN. When I try to leave this box blank the form won't let me continue what should I do?

A: If you have ever had a Social Security Number, you must enter it when completing the form. If you do not do so, you could be subject to a \$500 fine. If you do not remember your SSN, you can contact the Federal Benefits Unit for assistance. If you have never had an SSN, you should complete that section of the form with zeroes.

Q: I had my US passport and UK Biometric Residence Permit card stolen. I would need both to leave the UK for Christmas and then re-enter. The urgency comes in needing a US passport renewed ASAP in order to then get the Biometric card renewed. Am I eligible for an Emergency appointment? I do not have travel within 5 days

A: We suggest that you contact the Embassy using our contact form - <http://dld.bz/pptfaq> to provide us with more details about your particular situation and allow us to advise you further.

Q: What are the conditions in which someone who has renounced US citizenship could be barred from entering the US (and getting a US visa)? The website says that this is a possibility but does not say what the circumstances would be.

A: Following the oath of renunciation at the Embassy, it can take approximately 6 weeks for final approval. We recommend that applicants do not attempt to travel to the United States during that time. If the applicant wishes to apply for a visa to travel to the U.S. at a later date, the determination on their eligibility can only be made by a Consular Officer at the time they apply for the visa.

Q: i live in France, if i renew my passport in London can i collect in France?

A: If you live in France, you should contact the Embassy in Paris for information about renewing your passport. They can be reached via their website, <http://france.usembassy.gov/>

Q: Hello, I need to book an appointment to replace a damaged passport. I would like to come in on the 28th or 29th of November as I am off work those days, but I realize that Thursday is thanksgiving. When will appointments be released for the 29th or for the first week of December?

A: There will be no appointments on the 28th and limited availability on the 29th. Follow us on Twitter (@usainukgcorner) and we will tweet when December appointments are opened up.

Q: How do I schedule a notary appointment at the embassy? Who can come with me?

A: You can schedule an appointment online. If all the slots are full, please e-mail [LondonNotary@state.gov](mailto:LondonNotary@state.gov) for an emergency appt. To accommodate people's difficult schedules this holiday season, we have opened up additional notary appointment in November, and will do the same in December. Only those who make appointments or indicate they are attending



as well in the online appointment request can enter the Embassy. Please keep this in mind if two people need to sign a notary, or you are bringing a witness for your document.

Q: How can the embassy help me as a U.S. citizen (or a U.S. citizen friend/family member) in case we are detained/deported by UK immigration authorities?

A: In the case that a U.S. citizen is turned around at the airport or detained by the UK Border Agency for questioning, the Embassy cannot and does not intervene. These are sovereign immigration decisions made by the UK government, and the U.S. government has no standing to dictate to the UK government its own policies. The same would be true for UK citizens entering the U.S., as the UK government would not have the authority to dictate to the U.S. government its own immigration policies.

Q: My minor son's passport is coming up for renewal soon around the holidays. Will there be any issue with passport interviews at the embassy during this time?

A: Please be aware that wait times around the holiday period are typically longer than normal, so do strategically plan for your son's renewal in advance. Follow us on Twitter for the most up-to-date appointment information and releases

Q: If a US citizen is married in UK can they return to the States with spouse and file the paper work for them to remain or should the paper work be started before they leave the UK??

A: We can't answer visa questions here; we suggest that you contact the USCIS office in the UK for assistance. Contact information is available on the Embassy website.

Q: I know that i can't bring my phone when I come to the Embassy, but what about my iPod, since i can't use it to make calls or anything?

A: No electronic items are permitted inside the Embassy, including iPods and headphones and key 'fobs'. You should check the list of prohibited items before attending the Embassy; it's here on our website - <http://london.usembassy.gov/ukembmap.html>. Remember, there are no storage facilities at the Embassy!

Q: My child is only 6, does she have to come to the Embassy with me to renew her passport?

A: When renewing minor child's passport, the child and both parents must be present at the appointment. If the child is not present, the appointment will be cancelled and you will be required to book a new appointment. More information about renewing a child's passport is available from the Embassy website - [http://london.usembassy.gov/cons\\_new/acs/passports/under16.html](http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/acs/passports/under16.html)

Q: I had an emergency passport given to me - which i've sent in to get a full validity passport. I have an appointment with the UKBA next week, is there any way to know whether I'll have my full-validity passport back in time?

A: We can't answer case specific questions here, but if you require a status update, you can contact us using the contact form <http://dld.bz/pptfaq> for assistance